US009465505B1

(12) **United States Patent**
**Moody et al.**

(10) **Patent No.: US 9,465,505 B1**
(45) **Date of Patent: Oct. 11, 2016**

(54) **REPUTATION BASED COLLABORATION SESSION**

(71) Applicant: **Google Inc.**, Mountain View, CA (US)

(72) Inventors: **Paul Moody**, Mountain View, CA (US); **Anand Paka**, San Francisco, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: **Google Inc.**, Mountain View, CA (US)

( * ) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 202 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **13/893,790**

(22) Filed: **May 14, 2013**

(51) **Int. Cl.**
***G06F 3/048*** (2013.01)
***G06Q 50/00*** (2012.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ..... ***G06F 3/048*** (2013.01); ***G06Q 50/01*** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC ..... H04L 51/04–51/046; H04L 51/12; H04L 51/32; H04L 28/08378; H04L 67/1057; G06Q 50/01
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

2002/0095305 A1* 7/2002 Gakidis ..... G06Q 10/10 705/300
2003/0028596 A1* 2/2003 Toyota ..... H04L 63/083 709/204
2006/0149708 A1* 7/2006 Lavine ..... 707/3
2006/0287106 A1* 12/2006 Jensen ..... A63F 13/12 463/42
2007/0078675 A1* 4/2007 Kaplan ..... G06Q 10/10 705/26.1
2008/0175266 A1* 7/2008 Alperovitch et al. ..... 370/465
2008/0229215 A1* 9/2008 Baron et al. ..... 715/751
2009/0006115 A1* 1/2009 Schwarz ..... G06Q 30/06 705/348
2009/0157490 A1* 6/2009 Lawyer ..... 705/11
2010/0005099 A1* 1/2010 Goodman et al. ..... 707/9
2011/0004693 A1* 1/2011 Rehfuss ..... G06Q 30/02 709/229
2013/0024513 A1* 1/2013 Sacks et al. ..... 709/204

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

WO WO 2010009281 A2 * 1/2010

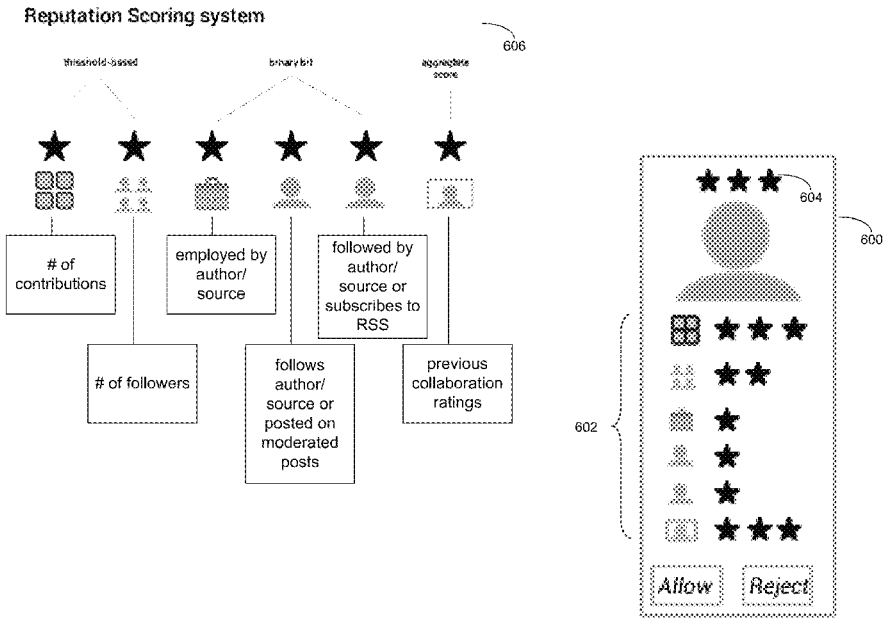
* cited by examiner

*Primary Examiner* — Jennifer To
*Assistant Examiner* — Liang Li

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method and computer system for determining a reputation threshold requirement for participating in a collaboration session. A determination is made whether a reputation of a user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session. Access to the collaboration session is enabled if the reputation of the user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session. Access to the collaboration session is disabled if the reputation of the user fails to satisfy the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session.

**20 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets**



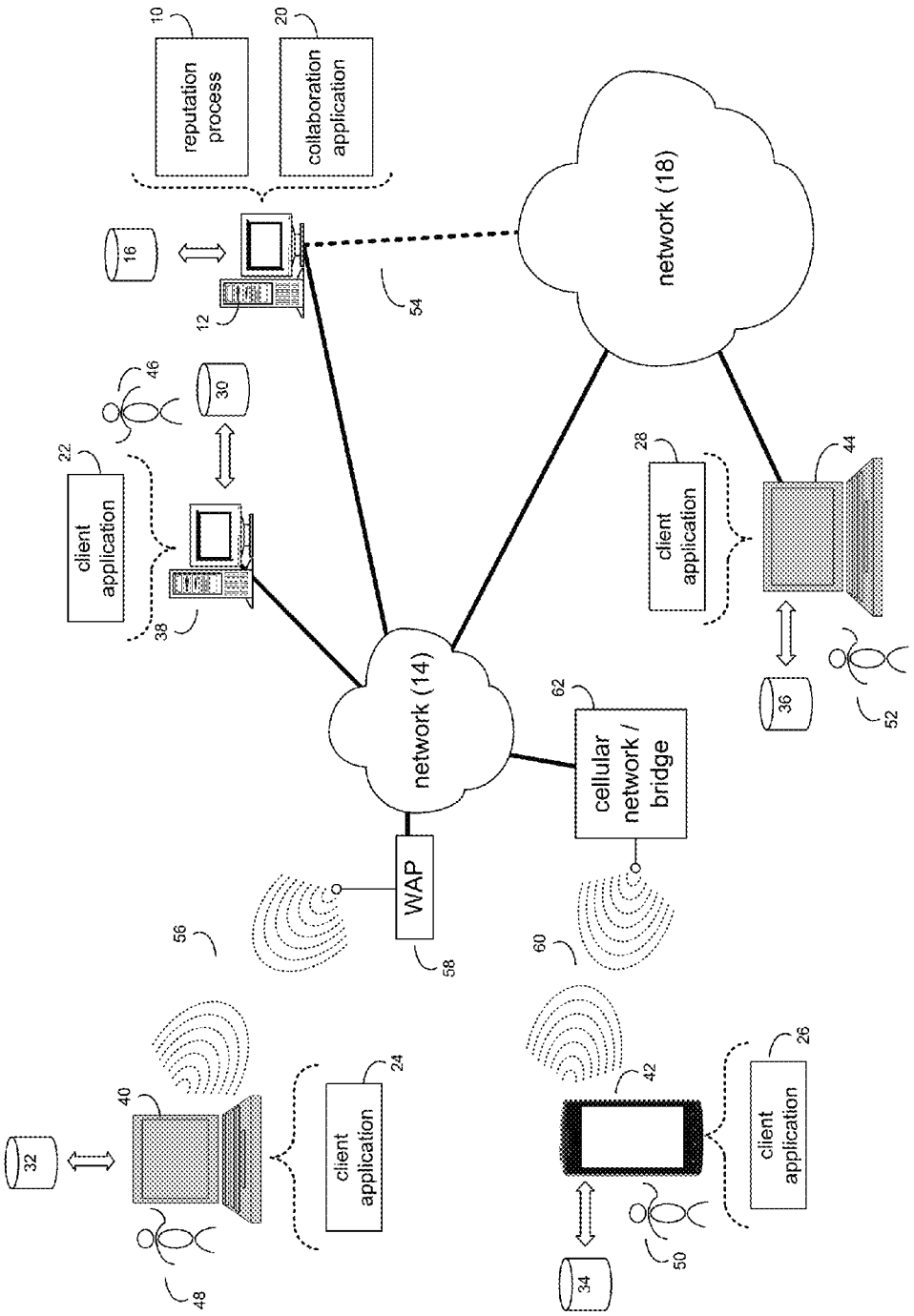

reputation process
10
collaboration application
20
16
12
54
network (18)
46
30
22
client application
38
28
client application
44
network (14)
62
cellular network / bridge
36
52
WAP
56
58
60
32
40
client application
24
42
client application
26
48
50
34

FIG. 1

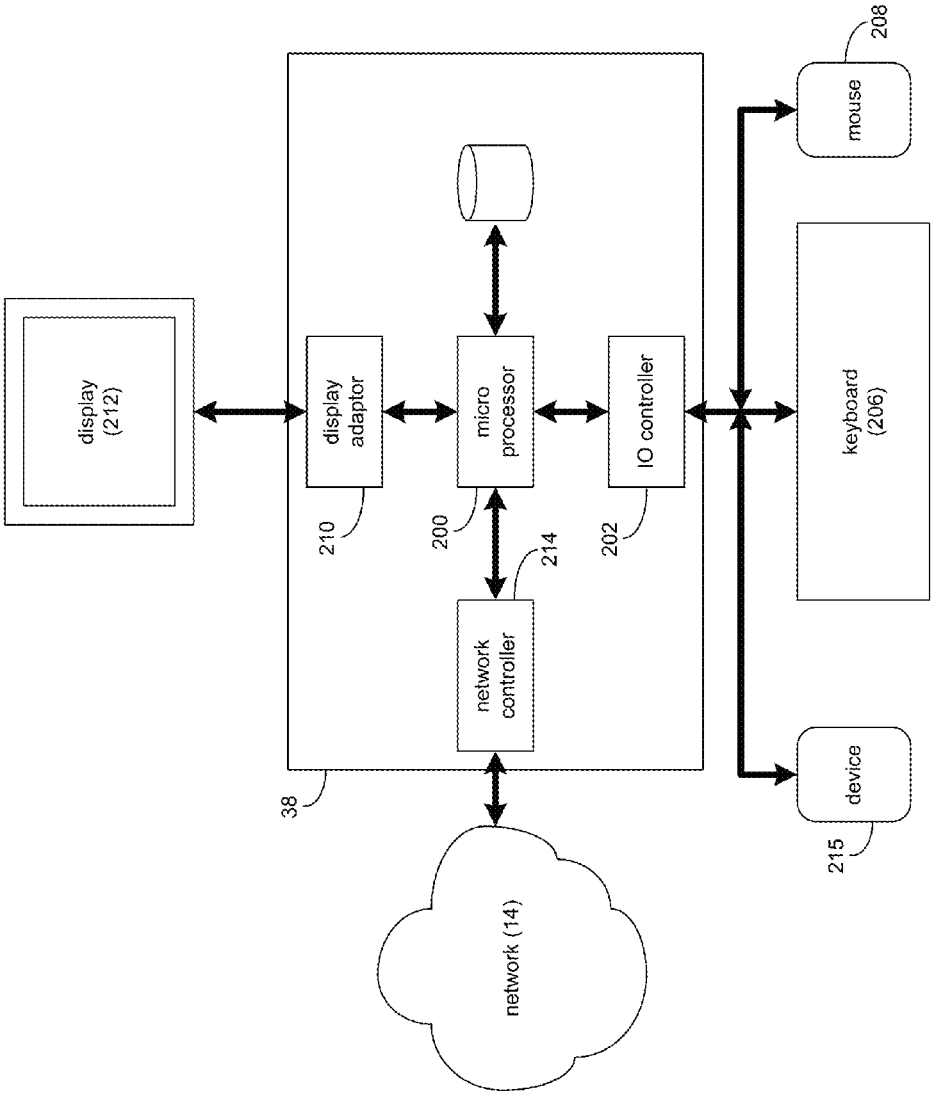

display (212)
display adaptor
micro processor
IO controller
mouse
keyboard (206)
device
network controller
network (14)
208
210
200
214
202
215
38

FIG. 2

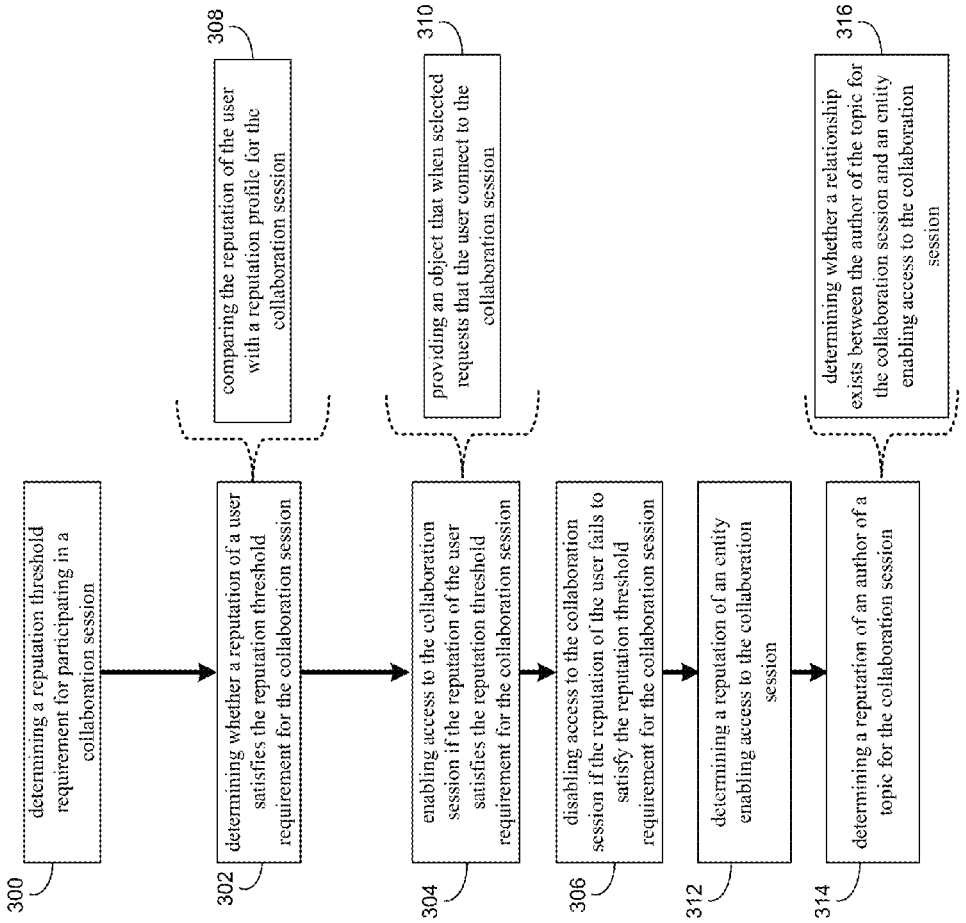

300
determining a reputation threshold requirement for participating in a collaboration session
302
determining whether a reputation of a user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session
308
comparing the reputation of the user with a reputation profile for the collaboration session
304
enabling access to the collaboration session if the reputation of the user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session
310
providing an object that when selected requests that the user connect to the collaboration session
306
disabling access to the collaboration session if the reputation of the user fails to satisfy the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session
312
determining a reputation of an entity enabling access to the collaboration session
314
determining a reputation of an author of a topic for the collaboration session
316
determining whether a relationship exists between the author of the topic for the collaboration session and an entity enabling access to the collaboration session

FIG. 3

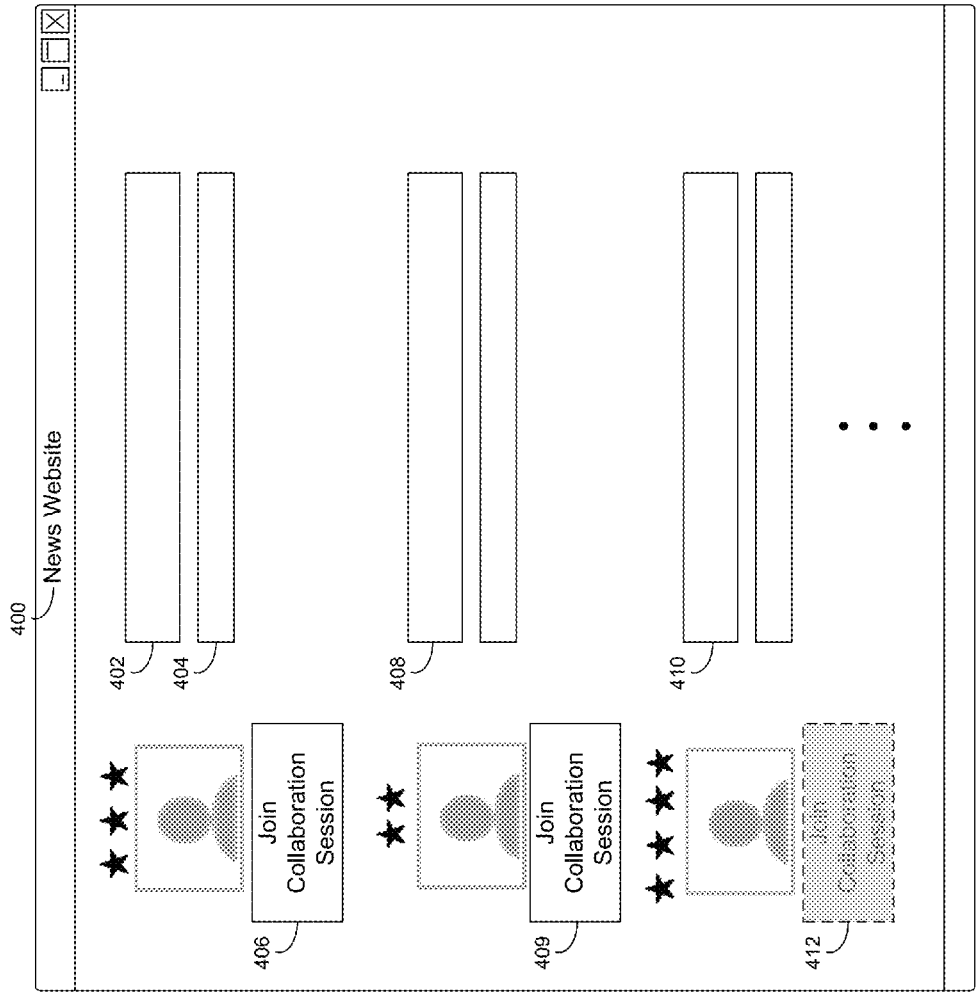

400
News Website
402
404
408
410
Join Collaboration Session
406
Join Collaboration Session
409
Join Collaboration Session
412

FIG. 4

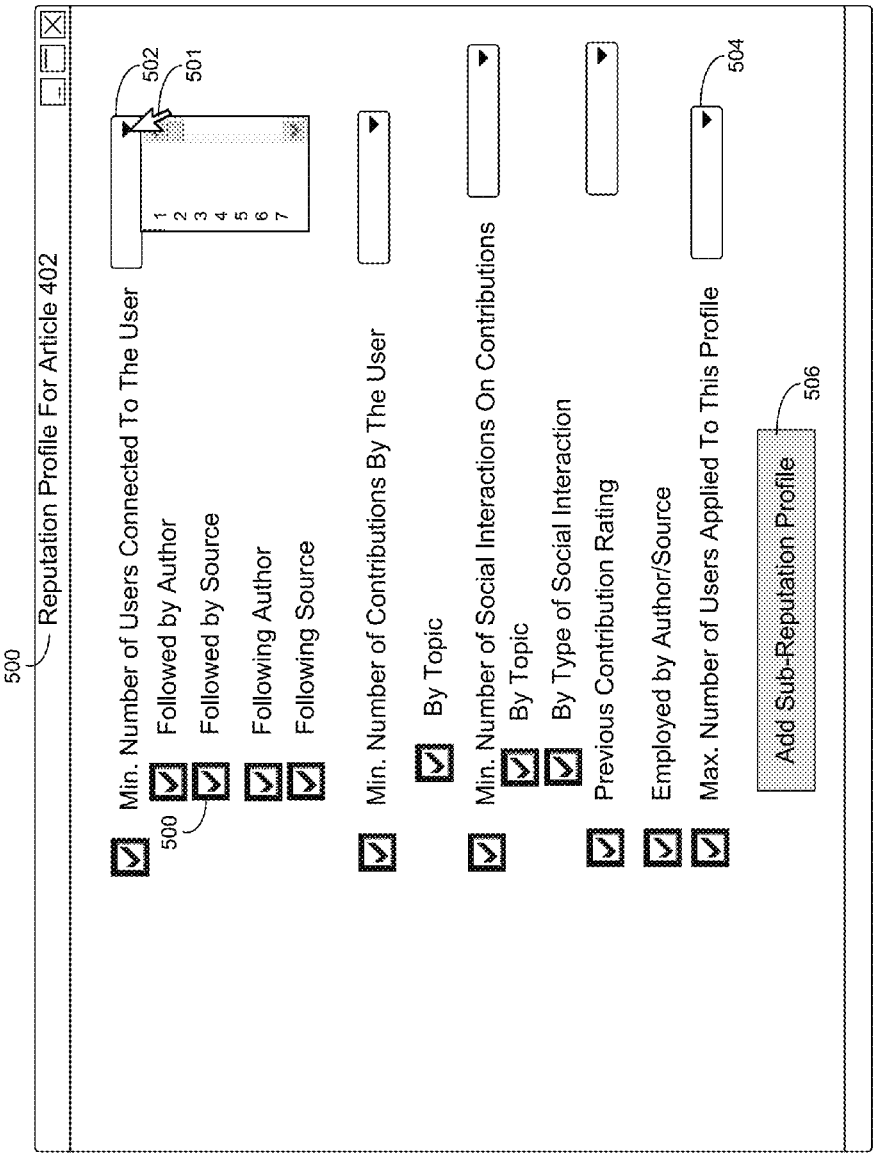
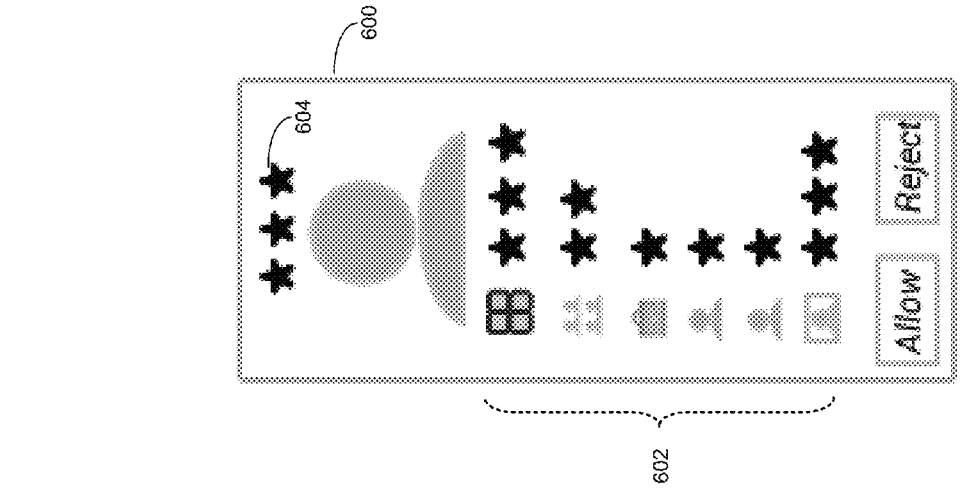

500
Reputation Profile For Article 402
Min. Number of Users Connected To The User
Followed by Author
Followed by Source
Following Author
Following Source
500
502
501
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
Min. Number of Contributions By The User
By Topic
Min. Number of Social Interactions On Contributions
By Topic
By Type of Social Interaction
Previous Contribution Rating
Employed by Author/Source
Max. Number of Users Applied To This Profile
504
Add Sub-Reputation Profile
506

FIG. 5


600
604
Allow
Reject
602

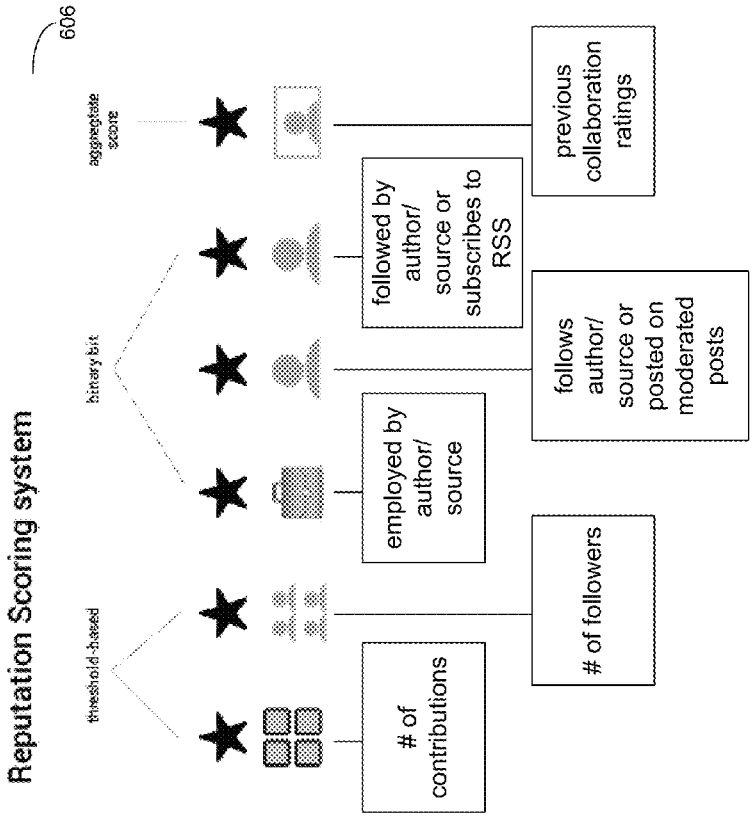

606
Reputation Scoring system
threshold-based
binary bit
aggregate score
# of contributions
# of followers
employed by author/ source
follows author/ source or posted on moderated posts
followed by author/ source or subscribes to RSS
previous collaboration ratings

FIG. 6

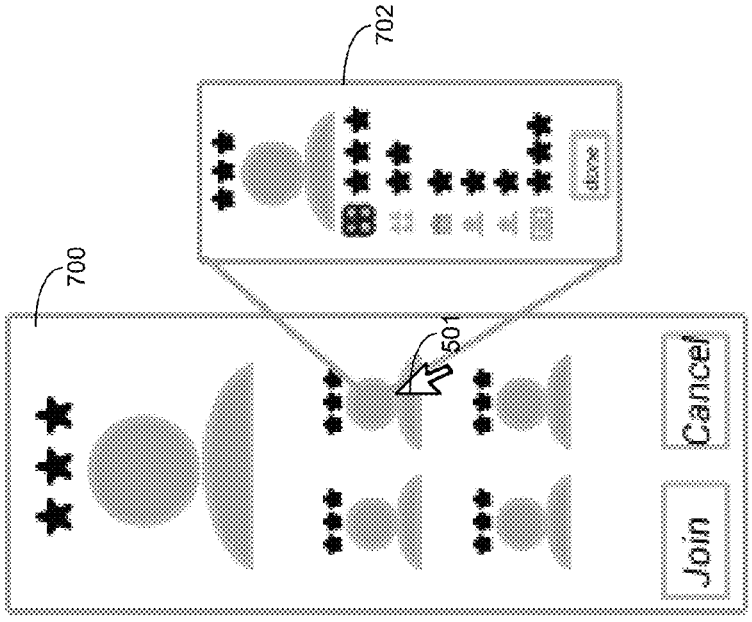



FIG. 7

# REPUTATION BASED COLLABORATION SESSION

## BACKGROUND

When a website, such as a popular news site, offers its readers a chance to contribute to a conversation (e.g., a particular news story via, e.g., video conferences, commenting, etc.), there may be little to no controls for the website to limit users from contributing to the conversation. Some of the users may be disruptive and/or may not contribute to the quality of the conversation. Additionally, with so many news stories and so many different websites covering the same story, participants may have a difficult time deciding which conversation in which to participate.

## BRIEF SUMMARY OF DISCLOSURE

In one implementation, a method, performed by one or more computing devices, comprises determining, by a computing device, a reputation threshold requirement for participating in a video conference session. A determination may be made whether a reputation of a user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the video conference session. The reputation of the user may be based upon, at least in part, one or more of a number of users connected to the user, a number of previous contributions by the user, and a number of social actions associated with at least a portion of the number of previous contributions by the user. Access to the video conference session may be enabled if the reputation of the user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the video conference session. Access to the video conference session may be disabled if the reputation of the user fails to satisfy the reputation threshold requirement for the video conference session.

In one implementation, a method, performed by one or more computing devices, comprises determining, by a computing device, a reputation threshold requirement for participating in a collaboration session. A determination may be made whether a reputation of a user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session. Access to the collaboration session may be enabled if the reputation of the user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session. Access to the collaboration session may be disabled if the reputation of the user fails to satisfy the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session.

One or more of the following features may be included. Enabling access to the collaboration session may include providing an object that when selected requests that the user connect to the collaboration session. A determination may be made of a reputation of an entity enabling access to the collaboration session. A determination may be made of a reputation of an author of a topic for the collaboration session. Determining the reputation of the author of the topic for the collaboration session may include determining whether a relationship exists between the author of the topic for the collaboration session and an entity enabling access to the collaboration session. The relationship may include a connection between the author of the topic for the collaboration session and the entity enabling access to the collaboration session. The reputation of the user may be based upon, at least in part, a number of users connected to the user. The reputation of the user may be based upon, at least in part, a number of previous contributions by the user. The reputation of the user may be based upon, at least in part, a number of social actions associated with at least a portion of the number of previous contributions by the user. Determining whether the reputation of the user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session may include comparing the reputation of the user with a reputation profile for the collaboration session.

In another implementation, a computing system includes a processor and a memory configured to perform operations comprising determining a reputation threshold requirement for participating in a collaboration session. A determination may be made whether a reputation of a user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session. Access to the collaboration session may be enabled if the reputation of the user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session. Access to the collaboration session may be disabled if the reputation of the user fails to satisfy the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session.

One or more of the following features may be included. Enabling access to the collaboration session may include providing an object that when selected requests that the user connect to the collaboration session. A determination may be made of a reputation of an entity enabling access to the collaboration session. A determination may be made of a reputation of an author of a topic for the collaboration session. Determining the reputation of the author of the topic for the collaboration session may include determining whether a relationship exists between the author of the topic for the collaboration session and an entity enabling access to the collaboration session. The relationship may include a connection between the author of the topic for the collaboration session and the entity enabling access to the collaboration session. The reputation of the user may be based upon, at least in part, a number of users connected to the user. The reputation of the user may be based upon, at least in part, a number of previous contributions by the user. The reputation of the user may be based upon, at least in part, a number of social actions associated with at least a portion of the number of previous contributions by the user. Determining whether the reputation of the user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session may include comparing the reputation of the user with a reputation profile for the collaboration session.

In another implementation, a computer program product resides on a computer readable storage medium that has a plurality of instructions stored on it. When executed by a processor, the instructions cause the processor to perform operations comprising determining a reputation threshold requirement for participating in a collaboration session. A determination may be made whether a reputation of a user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session. Access to the collaboration session may be enabled if the reputation of the user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session. Access to the collaboration session may be disabled if the reputation of the user fails to satisfy the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session.

One or more of the following features may be included. Enabling access to the collaboration session may include providing an object that when selected requests that the user connect to the collaboration session. A determination may be made of a reputation of an entity enabling access to the collaboration session. A determination may be made of a reputation of an author of a topic for the collaboration session. Determining the reputation of the author of the topic for the collaboration session may include determining whether a relationship exists between the author of the topic for the collaboration session and an entity enabling access to

the collaboration session. The relationship may include a connection between the author of the topic for the collaboration session and the entity enabling access to the collaboration session. The reputation of the user may be based upon, at least in part, a number of users connected to the user. The reputation of the user may be based upon, at least in part, a number of previous contributions by the user. The reputation of the user may be based upon, at least in part, a number of social actions associated with at least a portion of the number of previous contributions by the user. Determining whether the reputation of the user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session may include comparing the reputation of the user with a reputation profile for the collaboration session.

The details of one or more implementations are set forth in the accompanying drawings and the description below. Other features and advantages will become apparent from the description, the drawings, and the claims.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is an illustrative diagrammatic view of a reputation process coupled to a distributed computing network according to one or more implementations of the present disclosure;

FIG. **2** is a diagrammatic view of a client electronic device of FIG. **1** according to one or more implementations of the present disclosure;

FIG. **3** is an illustrative flowchart of the reputation process of FIG. **1** according to one or more implementations of the present disclosure;

FIG. **4** is an illustrative diagrammatic view of a screen image displayed by the reputation process of FIG. **1** according to one or more implementations of the present disclosure;

FIG. **5** is an illustrative diagrammatic view of a screen image displayed by the reputation process of FIG. **1** according to one or more implementations of the present disclosure;

FIG. **6** is an illustrative diagrammatic view of a screen image displayed by the reputation process of FIG. **1** according to one or more implementations of the present disclosure; and

FIG. **7** is an illustrative diagrammatic view of a screen image displayed by the reputation process of FIG. **1** according to one or more implementations of the present disclosure.

Like reference symbols in the various drawings indicate like elements.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

When a website, such as a popular news site, offers its readers a chance to contribute to a conversation (e.g., a particular news story via, e.g., video conferences, commenting, etc.), there may be little to no controls for the website to limit users from contributing to the conversation. Some of the users may be disruptive and/or may not contribute to the quality of the conversation. Additionally, with so many news stories and so many different websites covering the same story, participants may have a difficult time deciding which conversation in which to participate. In some implementations, as will be discussed in greater detail below, using certain metrics to obtain a reputation of the creator of the conversation, those who might be able to join the conversation may make a better informed decision as to whether they want to join the conversation. Similarly, using certain metrics to obtain a reputation of those that might want to join the conversation, the creator of the conversation may make a better informed decision as to who will be allowed to join the conversation.

Referring to FIG. **1**, there is shown reputation process **10** that may reside on and may be executed by a computer (e.g., computer **12**), which may be connected to a network (e.g., network **14**) (e.g., the internet or a local area network). Examples of computer **12** (and/or one or more of the client electronic devices noted below) may include, but are not limited to, a personal computer(s), a laptop computer(s), mobile computing device(s), a server computer, a series of server computers, a mainframe computer(s), or a computing cloud(s). Computer **12** may execute an operating system, for example, but not limited to, Microsoft® Windows®; Mac® OS X®; Red Hat® Linux®, or a custom operating system. (Microsoft and Windows are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States, other countries or both; Mac and OS X are registered trademarks of Apple Inc. in the United States, other countries or both; Red Hat is a registered trademark of Red Hat Corporation in the United States, other countries or both; and Linux is a registered trademark of Linus Torvalds in the United States, other countries or both).

As will be discussed below in greater detail, reputation process **10** may determine a reputation threshold requirement for participating in a collaboration session. A determination may be made whether a reputation of a user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session. Access to the collaboration session may be enabled if the reputation of the user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session. Access to the collaboration session may be disabled if the reputation of the user fails to satisfy the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session.

The instruction sets and subroutines of reputation process **10**, which may be stored on storage device **16** coupled to computer **12**, may be executed by one or more processors (not shown) and one or more memory architectures (not shown) included within computer **12**. Storage device **16** may include but is not limited to: a hard disk drive; a flash drive, a tape drive; an optical drive; a RAID array; a random access memory (RAM); and a read-only memory (ROM).

Network **14** may be connected to one or more secondary networks (e.g., network **18**), examples of which may include but are not limited to: a local area network; a wide area network; or an intranet, for example.

Computer **12** may include a data store, such as a database (e.g., relational database, object-oriented database, triplestore database, etc.) and may be located within any suitable memory location, such as storage device **16** coupled to computer **12**. Any data described throughout the present disclosure may be stored in the data store. In some implementations, computer **12** may utilize a database management system such as, but not limited to, "My Structured Query Language" (MySQL®) in order to provide multi-user access to one or more databases, such as the above noted relational database. The data store may also be a custom database, such as, for example, a flat file database or an XML database. Any other form(s) of a data storage structure and/or organization may also be used. Reputation process **10** may be a component of the data store, a stand alone application that interfaces with the above noted data store and/or an applet/application that is accessed via client applications **22**, **24**, **26**, **28**. The above noted data store may be, in whole or in part, distributed in a cloud computing

topology. In this way, computer **12** and storage device **16** may refer to multiple devices, which may also be distributed throughout the network.

Computer **12** may execute a collaboration application (e.g., collaboration application **20**), examples of which may include, but are not limited to, e.g., a web conferencing application, a video conferencing application, a voice-over-IP application, a video-over-IP application, or other application that allows for virtual meeting and/or remote collaboration. Reputation process **10** and/or collaboration application **20** may be accessed via client applications **22**, **24**, **26**, **28**. Reputation process **10** may be a stand alone application, or may be an applet/application/script that may interact with and/or be executed within collaboration application **20** and/or one or more of client applications **22**, **24**, **26**, **28**. Collaboration application **20** may be a stand alone application, or may be an applet/application/script that may interact with and/or be executed within reputation process **10** and/or one or more of client applications **22**, **24**, **26**, **28**. One or more of client applications **22**, **24**, **26**, **28** may be a stand alone application, or may be an applet/application/script that may interact with and/or be executed within reputation process **10** and/or collaboration application **20**. Examples of client applications **22**, **24**, **26**, **28** may include, but are not limited to, e.g., a web conferencing application, video conferencing application, voice-over-IP application, a video-over-IP application, or other application that allow for virtual meeting and/or remote collaboration, a standard and/or mobile web browser, an email client application, a textual and/or a graphical user interface, a customized web browser, a plugin, an Application Programming Interface (API), or a custom application. The instruction sets and subroutines of client applications **22**, **24**, **26**, **28**, which may be stored on storage devices **30**, **32**, **34**, **36** coupled to client electronic devices **38**, **40**, **42**, **44**, may be executed by one or more processors (not shown) and one or more memory architectures (not shown) incorporated into client electronic devices **38**, **40**, **42**, **44**.

Storage devices **30**, **32**, **34**, **36** may include but are not limited to: hard disk drives; flash drives, tape drives; optical drives; RAID arrays; random access memories (RAM); and read-only memories (ROM). Examples of client electronic devices **38**, **40**, **42**, **44** (and/or computer **12**) may include, but are not limited to, a personal computer (e.g., client electronic device **38**), a laptop computer (e.g., client electronic device **40**), a smart/data-enabled, cellular phone (e.g., client electronic device **42**), a notebook computer (e.g., client electronic device **44**), a tablet (not shown), a server (not shown), a television (not shown), a smart television (not shown), a media (e.g., video, photo, etc.) capturing device (not shown), a personal computing device (e.g., a watch (not shown)), augmented reality displays, and a dedicated network device (not shown). Client electronic devices **38**, **40**, **42**, **44** may each execute an operating system, examples of which may include but are not limited to, Android™, Apple® iOS®, Mac® OS X®; Red Hat® Linux®, or a custom operating system.

One or more of client applications **22**, **24**, **26**, **28** may be configured to effectuate some or all of the functionality of reputation process **10** (and vice versa). Accordingly, reputation process **10** may be a purely server-side application, a purely client-side application, or a hybrid server-side/client-side application that is cooperatively executed by one or more of client applications **22**, **24**, **26**, **28** and/or reputation process **10**.

One or more of client applications **22**, **24**, **26**, **28** may be configured to effectuate some or all of the functionality of collaboration application **20** (and vice versa). Accordingly, collaboration application **20** may be a purely server-side application, a purely client-side application, or a hybrid server-side/client-side application that is cooperatively executed by one or more of client applications **22**, **24**, **26**, **28** and/or collaboration application **20**. As one or more of client applications **22**, **24**, **26**, **28**, reputation process **10**, and collaboration application **20**, taken singly or in any combination, may effectuate some or all of the same functionality, any description of effectuating such functionality via one or more of client applications **22**, **24**, **26**, **28**, reputation process **10**, collaboration application **20**, or combination thereof, and any described interaction(s) between one or more of client applications **22**, **24**, **26**, **28**, reputation process **10**, collaboration application **20**, or combination thereof to effectuate such functionality, should be taken as an example only and not to limit the scope of the disclosure.

Users **46**, **48**, **50**, **52** may access computer **12** and reputation process **10** (e.g., using one or more of client electronic devices **38**, **40**, **42**, **44**) directly through network **14** or through secondary network **18**. Further, computer **12** may be connected to network **14** through secondary network **18**, as illustrated with phantom link line **54**. Reputation process **10** may include one or more user interfaces, such as browsers and textual or graphical user interfaces, through which users **46**, **48**, **50**, **52** may access reputation process **10**.

The various client electronic devices may be directly or indirectly coupled to network **14** (or network **18**). For example, client electronic device **38** is shown directly coupled to network **14** via a hardwired network connection. Further, client electronic device **44** is shown directly coupled to network **18** via a hardwired network connection. Client electronic device **40** is shown wirelessly coupled to network **14** via wireless communication channel **56** established between client electronic device **40** and wireless access point (i.e., WAP) **58**, which is shown directly coupled to network **14**. WAP 58 may be, for example, an IEEE 802.11a, 802.11b, 802.11g, Wi-Fi®, and/or Bluetooth™ device that is capable of establishing wireless communication channel **56** between client electronic device **40** and WAP 58. Client electronic device **42** is shown wirelessly coupled to network **14** via wireless communication channel **60** established between client electronic device **42** and cellular network/bridge **62**, which is shown directly coupled to network **14**.

Some or all of the IEEE 802.11x specifications may use Ethernet protocol and carrier sense multiple access with collision avoidance (i.e., CSMA/CA) for path sharing. The various 802.11x specifications may use phase-shift keying (i.e., PSK) modulation or complementary code keying (i.e., CCK) modulation, for example. Bluetooth™ is a telecommunications industry specification that allows, e.g., mobile phones, computers, smart phones, and other electronic devices to be interconnected using a short-range wireless connection. Other forms of interconnection (e.g., Near Field Communication (NFC)) may also be used.

Referring also to FIG. **2**, there is shown a diagrammatic view of client electronic device **38**. While client electronic device **38** is shown in this figure, this is for illustrative purposes only and is not intended to be a limitation of this disclosure, as other configurations are possible. For example, any computing device capable of executing, in whole or in part, reputation process **10** may be substituted for client electronic device **38** within FIG. **2**, examples of which may include but are not limited to computer **12** and/or client electronic devices **40**, **42**, **44**.

Client electronic device **38** may include a processor and/or microprocessor (e.g., microprocessor **200**) configured to, e.g., process data and execute the above-noted code/instruction sets and subroutines. Microprocessor **200** may be coupled via a storage adaptor (not shown) to the above-noted storage device. An I/O controller (e.g., I/O controller **202**) may be configured to couple microprocessor **200** with various devices, such as keyboard **206**, pointing/selecting device (e.g., mouse **208**), custom device (e.g., device **215**), USB ports (not shown), and printer ports (not shown). A display adaptor (e.g., display adaptor **210**) may be configured to couple display **212** (e.g., CRT or LCD monitor (s)) with microprocessor **200**, while network controller/adaptor **214** (e.g., an Ethernet adaptor) may be configured to couple microprocessor **200** to the above-noted network **14** (e.g., the Internet or a local area network).

As discussed above and referring also to FIGS. **3-7**, reputation process **10** may determine **300**, by a computing device, a reputation threshold requirement for participating in a collaboration session. Reputation process **10** may determine **302** whether a reputation of a user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session. Reputation process **10** may enable **304** access to the collaboration session if the reputation of the user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session. Reputation process **10** may disable **306** access to the collaboration session if the reputation of the user fails to satisfy the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session.

Assume for example purposes only, and referring at least to FIG. **4**, that website **400**, such as a website that posts online articles about news events, has posted article **402** about a recent event, and has made at least a snippet of article **402** available to the public via the Internet. In some implementations, website **400** may include a ranked list of one or more sources **404** for each article in the news cluster (e.g., other websites that may have posted an article about the same news story). Further assume in the example that the author of the article (and/or the administrator of the website) wants to allow other users to be able to voice their opinion, comment, or discuss the article (e.g., via a video "chatting" session). In the example, further assume that the author wants to restrict such a discussion between those users that are likely to increase the quality of the discussion, rather than those that are likely to be disruptive (e.g., using profanity, using hate speech, etc.). One example technique to limit the discussion between those users that are likely to increase the quality of the discussion may be to use the reputation of the user as a qualifier to participate. For example, in some implementations, reputation process **10** may determine **300**, by a computing device (e.g., computer **12**), a reputation threshold requirement for participating in a collaboration session (e.g., the video conferencing "chatting session"). For instance, as will be discussed in greater detail below, if a user (e.g., user **48**) wants to contribute to the discussion about the article, the author of the article (e.g., user **46**) (and/or the administrator of the website) may via reputation process **10** set a reputation threshold requirement that user **48** (and other users) may need to have before such participation may be permitted.

In some implementations, reputation process **10** may determine **302** whether a reputation of a user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session. For instance, the reputation of the user may be based upon, at least in part, a number of users connected to the user. For example, user **48** may be connected to (e.g., "followed by" and/or "following" via, e.g., an example RSS feed or the like), e.g., ≥50 users and ≥100 users respectively. Other values and/or ranges (e.g., ≥100, ≥1,000, ≥10,000, etc.) may also be used without departing from the scope of this disclosure. In the example, the more users that follow user **48** (and/or the more users that user **48** follows), the higher the reputation of user **48**. Conversely, the fewer users that follow user **48** (and/or the fewer users that user **48** follows), the lower the reputation of user **48**. In some implementations, the reputation of user **48** may be increased if user **48** is followed by the author of the article (e.g., user **46**) and/or the source posting the article, by a factor greater than if user **48** were followed by a user that was not user **46** or the source posting the article. Similarly, the reputation of user **48** may be increased if user **48** is following the author of the article (e.g., user **46**) and/or the source posting the article, by a factor greater than if user **48** were following a user that was not user **46** or the source posting the article.

In some implementations, the reputation of the user may be based upon, at least in part, a number of previous contributions by the user. For example, user **48** may have previously contributed to one or more other news articles, e.g., 50 times. In the example, the more contributions made by user **48**, the higher the reputation of user **48**. Conversely, the fewer contributions made by user **48**, the lower the reputation of user **48**. Contributions may include but are not limited to, e.g., commenting on an article, participating in video collaboration sessions, posting articles, etc. In some implementations, the reputation may be dependent upon the topic of the contribution. For example, if the article topic is "pets", then only those contributions made by user **48** about pets (or a related topic such as animals) may be included in the determination **302** of the reputation of user **48** (at least for the topic of "pets"). In the example, if user **48** had contributed 50 times total, but only 40 of those 50 contributions were about pets, then reputation process **10** may determine **302** the reputation of user **48** based upon, at least in part, **40** previous contributions. In some implementations, the total number of previous contributions may be used by reputation process **10** to determine **302** the reputation of user **48**.

In some implementations, the reputation of the user may be based upon, at least in part, a number of social actions associated with at least a portion of the number of previous contributions by the user. For instance, continuing with the above example, other users may have, e.g., "liked", "shared", "reshared", commented upon, etc. one or more of the previous contributions made by user **48**. In the example, the more social interactions made by other users for contributions made by user **48**, the higher the reputation of user **48**. Conversely, the fewer social interactions made by other users for contributions made by user **48**, the lower the reputation of user **48**. In some implementations, the number of social interactions made by other users for contributions made by user **48** may be topic specific. For example, if user **48** had contributed 50 times total, but only 40 of those 50 contributions were about pets, then reputation process **10** may determine **302** the reputation of user **48** (at least for the topic of pets) based upon, at least in part, only those social interactions made by other users for the **40** previous contributions. In some implementations, the total number of social interactions made by other users to all previous contributions of user **48** may be used by reputation process **10** to determine **302** the reputation of user **48**.

Other examples of things that may effect the reputation of user **48** may be used without departing from the scope of this disclosure. For example, other users may rate the quality of the previous contributions made by user **48** (e.g., whether

abuse was reported for the previous contributions, how well the previous contributions constructively added to the quality of the article, etc.), which may be aggregated as at least a portion of the reputation of user **48**. As such, the description of using previous contributions, the number of social interactions upon those previous contributions, and the number of users connected to user **48**, should be taken as an example only and not to limit the scope of this disclosure.

In some implementations, determining **302** whether the reputation of the user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session may include reputation process **10** comparing **308** the reputation of the user with a reputation profile for the collaboration session. For instance, reputation process **10** may provide the author of article **402** (e.g., user **46**) and/or the administrator of website **400** with a reputation profile that may be used when determining **300** the reputation threshold requirement for participating in the collaboration session. For example, and referring at least to FIG. **5**, an example user interface of reputation profile **500** for article **402** (e.g., provided via reputation process **10**, client application **22**, collaboration application **20**, or combination thereof) is shown. In the example, and continuing with the above example, reputation profile **500** may enable user **46** to establish the minimum reputation requirements for user **48** (and/or other users) to participate in the above-noted collaboration session. For instance, as established by user **46**, reputation profile **500** may require that user **48** be followed by a minimum number of users before being allowed to participate in the collaboration session, which may be input by user **46** via, e.g., cursor **501** and drop down menu **502**. In the example, as established by user **46**, reputation profile **500** may require that user **48** be followed by user **46**, followed by the source of article **402**, following user **46**, and/or following the source of article **402**, or combination thereof, before being allowed to participate in the collaboration session, which may be input by user **46** via, e.g., "check box" **504** or the like.

In some implementations, user **46** may use the example check boxes to establish which parameters will be used to determine **300** the reputation requirements. In some implementations, reputation profile **500** may provide user **46** with the ability to add a custom parameter used to determine **300** the reputation requirements. In some implementations, reputation profile **500** may include one or more sub-reputation profiles (not shown) that may provide user **46** with the ability to customize the number of users to apply to a particular sub-reputation profile. For example, to provide diversity in the participants of the collaboration session, user **46** may use, e.g., dropdown menu **504**, to establish that the parameters shown in reputation profile **500** may apply to, e.g., a maximum of 5 users. In the example, user **46** may also want a maximum (or minimum) number of users (e.g., 7 users) to participate in the collaboration session that do not follow user **46**. In the example, user **46** may select, e.g., object **506**, to create a sub-reputation profile (not shown) with different requirements for the same article **402** (e.g., using the same options shown in reputation profile **500** with different check boxes being selected). Thus, user **46** may diversify the reputations of users that are able to participate in the collaboration session instead of a "one size fits all" approach being applied to all users. For instance, even though reputation profile **500** requires users to follow user **46**, the above-noted sub-reputation profile may still enable, e.g., a maximum of 7 users that do not follow user **46** to participate in the collaboration session. It will be appreciated that differing customized combinations of reputation profile **500** and/or sub-reputation profile(s) may be used without departing from the scope of this disclosure. As such, the particular combination of options selected for reputation profile **500** and/or sub-reputation profiles should be taken as an example only and not to otherwise limit the scope of this disclosure.

In some implementations, reputation process **10** may enable **304** access to the collaboration session if the reputation of the user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session. For instance, and continuing with the above example, if reputation process **10** determines **302** that the reputation of user **48** satisfies the reputation threshold requirements for the collaboration session (e.g., as established by the above-noted reputation profile **500**), reputation process **10** may enable **304** user **48** to participate in the collaboration session. In some implementations, and referring again to FIG. **4**, enabling **304** access to the collaboration session may include reputation process **10** providing **310** an object that when selected requests that the user connect to the collaboration session. For instance, assume for example purposes only that user **48** is currently viewing website **400**, which includes one or more articles (e.g., article **402**, article **408**, and article **410**). Further assume that based upon the reputation profile(s) established for articles **402**, article **408**, and article **410**, that user **48** is eligible to participate in the collaboration session for articles **402** and article **408**, but not article **410**. In the example, reputation process **10** may provide, e.g., object **406** for article **402** and object **409** for article **408**, that when selected by user **48**, connects user **48** to the respective collaboration session for the respective article, where user **48** may then participate in the respective collaboration session. For instance, if the collaboration session includes a video chatting session, user **48** may be enabled **304** to connect to and participate in that video chatting session. As another example, if the collaboration session includes a call-in conference, user **48** may be enabled **304** to call in to and participate in the call-in conference. As another example, if the collaboration session includes a blog, user **48** may be enabled **304** to comment or otherwise interact with the blog. As another example, if the collaboration session includes a collaboration space, user **48** may be enabled **304** to add, delete, view, and/or modify files within the collaboration space. Other examples of collaboration sessions and the particular access enabled **304** by reputation process **10** may be used without departing from the scope of the disclosure. As such, the description of the collaboration session including video chatting, call-in conferencing, commenting, or combination thereof should be taken as an example only and not to limit the scope of the disclosure.

In some implementations, reputation process **10** may disable **306** access to the collaboration session if the reputation of the user fails to satisfy the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session. For instance, continuing with the above-example where based upon the reputation profile(s) established for articles **402**, article **408**, and article **410**, that user **48** is eligible to participate in the collaboration session for articles **402** and article **408**, but not article **410**. In the example, while reputation process **10** may provide, e.g., object **406** for article **402** and object **409** for article **408**, that when selected by user **48**, connects user **48** to the respective collaboration session for the respective article where user **48** may then participate in the respective collaboration session, reputation process **10** may disable **306** access to the collaboration session of article **410**, thereby preventing user **48** from connecting and/or participating in the collaboration session for article **410**. In some implementations, object **412** may be "grayed out" to disable **306**

access to the collaboration session. In some implementations, article **410** is not displayed to user **48** to disable **306** access to the collaboration session. Other techniques to disable **306** access to the collaboration session may also be used without departing from the scope of the disclosure.

In some implementations, and referring at least to FIG. **6**, reputation process **10** may provide a notification, e.g., notification **600** to user **46** indicating that user **48** has requested to access the collaboration session of article **402**. In some implementations, the notification may include the reputation of user **48** associated with each individual parameter **602** established on the above-noted reputation profile (and/or sub-reputation profile), as well as overall reputation **604** based upon, at least in part, each parameter **602**. For example, and as shown via example key **606**, the notification may include the number of users connected to user **48**, the number of contributions made by user **48**, the number of social interactions on those contributions, etc. The notification may also provide user **46** with the ability to accept or deny the request for user **48** to connect to the collaboration session. In some implementations, the request to connect to the collaboration session may be automatically accepted by reputation process **10** without user **46** manually accepting the request.

In some implementations, the scoring of the reputation of user **48** may include, e.g., a threshold-based scoring system, a binary bit scoring system, an aggregate scoring system, and combination thereof. For example, if user **48** has a minimum threshold number of contributions and/or followers, user **48** may achieve, e.g., at least one "point" illustrated by example only as a star. In the example, user **48** may attain more stars as subsequent threshold numbers of contributions and/or followers are accumulated. In the example, if user **48** is employed by the author/source of article **402**, follows the author/source of article **402** or posted on a post moderated by the author/source of article **402**, or followed by the author/source of article **402** or author/source of article **402** subscribed to user **48** via RSS (or combination thereof), user **48** may achieve, e.g., at least one other "point" illustrated by example only as a star. In the example, if user **48** has previous collaboration ratings from other users (e.g., aggregated positive/negative ratings from other users and/or authors of previous collaboration sessions), user **48** may achieve, e.g., at least one other "point" illustrated by example only as a star. In some implementations, the total "points" may be averaged together or otherwise combined to determine overall reputation **604** of user **48**. In the above-example, if user **48** has a 3 star reputation, and user **46** has established a threshold reputation of at least 2 stars to participate in the collaboration session, reputation process **10** may enable **304** user **48** to access the collaboration session. Conversely, if user **48** has a 3 star reputation, and user **46** has established a threshold reputation of at least 4 stars to participate in the collaboration session, reputation process **10** may disable **306** user **48** from accessing the collaboration session. In some implementations, the determined **300** reputation threshold requirement may include the average participant reputation of those users currently participating in the collaboration session. For example, if user **48** has a 3 star reputation, and the average participant reputation of those users currently participating in the collaboration session is at least 2 stars, reputation process **10** may enable **304** user **48** to access the collaboration session. In some implementations, this may be true even if user **46** has established a threshold reputation of at least 4 stars to participate in the collaboration session. For example, if not enough users are able to join (or have yet to join) the collaboration session, user **46** (via reputation process **10**) may manually and/or automatically change or otherwise override the required threshold to an average reputation of current participants. In the example, once enough users have joined, user **46** (via reputation process **10**) may manually and/or automatically change the reputation requirement back.

In some implementations, and referring at least to FIG. **7**, reputation process **10** may enable user **48** to view the current make-up of participants for article **402**. For example, user **48** may hover cursor **501** over a particular portion of website **400** associated with article **402** (e.g., object **406**), where a, e.g., pop-up window **700** may be rendered by reputation process **10** displaying information about who is participating in the collaboration session and/or their respective overall reputation **604**. In some implementations, user **48** may hover cursor **501** over a particular user in the pop-up window, where a, e.g., second pop-up window **702** may be rendered by reputation process **10** displaying the reputation of user **48** associated with each individual parameter **602** established on the above-noted reputation profile (and/or sub-reputation profile). In some implementations, user **46** and/or the administrator of website **400** may disable at least some portions of pop-up windows **700** and/or **702** from being displayed.

With so many news stories and so many different websites covering the same story, user **48** may have a difficult time deciding which conversation or source in which to participate. For example, website **400** may include a cluster of 10 different sources writing different articles for the same news event. To help user **48** decide which article and/or source in which to participate, reputation process **10** may determine **312** a reputation of an entity enabling access to the collaboration session. For example, the entity (e.g., website, source of the article, etc.) may have a reputation that is determined **312** similarly to that of user **48**. For example, the greater the number of users that follow the entity, the higher the reputation of the entity. As another example, the more articles posted via the entity, the higher the reputation of the entity. As yet another example, the more social interactions on those articles from different users, the higher the reputation of the entity.

As noted above, reputation process **10** may enable user **48** to view the current make-up of participants for article **402** by, e.g., user **48** hovering cursor **501** over a particular portion of website **400** associated with article **402** (e.g., object **406**), where a, e.g., pop-up window (not shown) may be rendered by reputation process **10** displaying information about who is participating in the collaboration session and/or their respective overall reputation **604**. In some implementations, similarly, the pop-up window may include the reputation of the entity enabling access to the collaboration session.

As yet another example to help user **48** decide which article and/or source in which to participate, reputation process **10** may determine **314** a reputation of an author of a topic for the collaboration session. For example, the author of article **402** (e.g., user **46**) may have a reputation that is determined **314** similarly to that of user **48** and/or the source of article **402**. For example, the greater the number of users that follow the author, the higher the reputation of the author. As another example, the more articles posted via the author, the higher the reputation of the author. As yet another example, the more social interactions on those articles from different users, the higher the reputation of the author. In some implementations, the author of article **402** being discussed and the originator of the collaboration session in which the article is discussed may be different. In the case

where the author of the article is also the originator of the collaboration session, this may add to the authors/originators reputation (in addition to all the other reputation factors). In some implementations, determining **314** the reputation of the author of the topic for the collaboration session may include reputation process **10** determining **316** whether a relationship exists between the author of the topic for the collaboration session and an entity enabling access to the collaboration session. For example, the relationship may include a connection between the author of the topic for the collaboration session and the entity enabling access to the collaboration session. The connection may include, for example, whether or not the author (e.g., user **46**) is an employee of the entity (e.g., the source/website of article **402**). As another example, the connection may include whether or not user **46** is following the source/website of article **402**. As yet another example, the connection may include whether or not the source/website of article **402** is following user **46**. Other examples of determining whether a relationship exists between the author of the topic for the collaboration session and an entity enabling access to the collaboration session may be used without departing from the scope of this disclosure.

As noted above, reputation process **10** may enable user **48** to view the current make-up of participants for article **402** by, e.g., user **48** hovering cursor **501** over a particular portion of website **400** associated with article **402** (e.g., object **406**), where a, e.g., pop-up window (not shown) may be rendered by reputation process **10** displaying information about who is participating in the collaboration session and/or their respective overall reputation **604**. In some implementations, similarly, the pop-up window may include the reputation of the author of article **402**, the reputation of the entity enabling access to the collaboration session, or combination thereof.

In some implementations, the various articles may be rendered by reputation process **10** in an ordered list based upon, at least in part, the reputations of the author of article **402** and/or the current participants. Other techniques of ordering the various articles may be used without departing from the scope of this disclosure. For example, reputation process **10** may provide user **48** with a similar reputation profile to that of reputation profile **500**, which may be used to determine which articles to display and/or the preferred order of display.

In some implementations, the author of the collaboration session/article **402** may, e.g., via reputation process **10**, at any time during or after the collaboration session, rate the performance of the users participating in the collaboration session. Similarly, each participant in the collaboration session may rate the performance of the author/source of the collaboration session. These ratings may contribute to user's/creator's/sources' previous collaboration session performance score, effecting their respective reputation.

While one or more examples refer to a news web site for news articles, it will be appreciated that other types of websites, channels for video streaming websites, and viewable subject matter (e.g., videos, audio, comments, books, applications, etc.) may also be used without departing from the scope of the disclosure. Furthermore, reputation process **10** may operate within any kind of aggregation app or other kind application besides a website based application (e.g., webapp). For example, reputation process **10** may be used for, e.g., virtual world conferences of avatars in which users are collaborating around a topic in abstract and not a particular piece of media (article, video, book, etc). As such, the use of a news website (and websites generally) and news articles (and particular pieces of media generally) should be taken as an example only and not to limit the scope of the disclosure.

In some implementations, reputation process **10** may enable user **48** and/or user **46** to "opt-out" of sharing information that may be used to determine the reputation of user **48** and/or user **46**, as well as the reputation itself of user **48** and/or user **46**. In some implementations, reputation process **10** may enable user **48** and/or user **46** to "opt-out" of the ability for others to view the reputation of user **48** and/or information that may be used to determine the reputation of user **48** and/or user **46**.

As will be appreciated by one skilled in the art, the present disclosure may be embodied as a method, system, or computer program product. Accordingly, the present disclosure may take the form of an entirely hardware implementation, an entirely software implementation (including firmware, resident software, micro-code, etc.) or an implementation combining software and hardware aspects that may all generally be referred to herein as a "circuit," "module" or "system." Furthermore, the present disclosure may take the form of a computer program product on a computer-usable storage medium having computer-usable program code embodied in the medium.

Any suitable computer usable or computer readable medium may be utilized. The computer readable medium may be a computer readable signal medium or a computer readable storage medium. The computer-usable, or computer-readable, storage medium (including a storage device associated with a computing device or client electronic device) may be, for example, but is not limited to, an electronic, magnetic, optical, electromagnetic, infrared, or semiconductor system, apparatus, device, or any suitable combination of the foregoing. More specific examples (a non-exhaustive list) of the computer-readable medium may include the following: an electrical connection having one or more wires, a portable computer diskette, a hard disk, a random access memory (RAM), a read-only memory (ROM), an erasable programmable read-only memory (EPROM or Flash memory), an optical fiber, a portable compact disc read-only memory (CD-ROM), an optical storage device, a media such as those supporting the internet or an intranet, or a magnetic storage device. Note that the computer-usable or computer-readable medium could even be a suitable medium upon which the program is stored, scanned, compiled, interpreted, or otherwise processed in a suitable manner, if necessary, and then stored in a computer memory. In the context of this document, a computer-usable or computer-readable, storage medium may be any tangible medium that can contain or store a program for use by or in connection with the instruction execution system, apparatus, or device.

A computer readable signal medium may include a propagated data signal with computer readable program code embodied therein, for example, in baseband or as part of a carrier wave. Such a propagated signal may take any of a variety of forms, including, but not limited to, electromagnetic, optical, or any suitable combination thereof. The computer readable program code may be transmitted using any appropriate medium, including but not limited to the internet, wireline, optical fiber cable, RF, etc. A computer readable signal medium may be any computer readable medium that is not a computer readable storage medium and that can communicate, propagate, or transport a program for use by or in connection with an instruction execution system, apparatus, or device.

Computer program code for carrying out operations of the present disclosure may be written in an object oriented programming language such as Java®, Smalltalk, C++ or the like. Java and all Java-based trademarks and logos are trademarks or registered trademarks of Oracle and/or its affiliates. However, the computer program code for carrying out operations of the present disclosure may also be written in conventional procedural programming languages, such as the "C" programming language, PASCAL, or similar programming languages, as well as in scripting languages such as Javascript or PERL. The program code may execute entirely on the user's computer, partly on the user's computer, as a stand-alone software package, partly on the user's computer and partly on a remote computer or entirely on the remote computer or server. In the latter scenario, the remote computer may be connected to the user's computer through a local area network (LAN) or a wide area network (WAN), or the connection may be made to an external computer (for example, through the internet using an Internet Service Provider).

The flowchart and block diagrams in the figures illustrate the architecture, functionality, and operation of possible implementations of apparatus (systems), methods and computer program products according to various implementations of the present disclosure. It will be understood that each block in the flowchart and/or block diagrams, and combinations of blocks in the flowchart and/or block diagrams, may represent a module, segment, or portion of code, which comprises one or more executable computer program instructions for implementing the specified logical function (s)/act(s). These computer program instructions may be provided to a processor of a general purpose computer, special purpose computer, or other programmable data processing apparatus to produce a machine, such that the computer program instructions, which may execute via the processor of the computer or other programmable data processing apparatus, create the ability to implement one or more of the functions/acts specified in the flowchart and/or block diagram block or blocks or combinations thereof. It should be noted that, in some alternative implementations, the functions noted in the block(s) may occur out of the order noted in the figures. For example, two blocks shown in succession may, in fact, be executed substantially concurrently, or the blocks may sometimes be executed in the reverse order, depending upon the functionality involved.

These computer program instructions may also be stored in a computer-readable memory that can direct a computer or other programmable data processing apparatus to function in a particular manner, such that the instructions stored in the computer-readable memory produce an article of manufacture including instruction means which implement the function/act specified in the flowchart and/or block diagram block or blocks or combinations thereof.

The computer program instructions may also be loaded onto a computer or other programmable data processing apparatus to cause a series of operational steps to be performed (not necessarily in a particular order) on the computer or other programmable apparatus to produce a computer implemented process such that the instructions which execute on the computer or other programmable apparatus provide steps for implementing the functions/acts (not necessarily in a particular order) specified in the flowchart and/or block diagram block or blocks or combinations thereof.

The terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular implementations only and is not intended to be limiting of the disclosure. As used herein, the singular forms "a", "an" and "the" are intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. It will be further understood that the terms "comprises" and/or "comprising," when used in this specification, specify the presence of stated features, integers, steps (not necessarily in a particular order), operations, elements, and/or components, but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps (not necessarily in a particular order), operations, elements, components, and/or groups thereof.

The corresponding structures, materials, acts, and equivalents of all means or step plus function elements in the claims below are intended to include any structure, material, or act for performing the function in combination with other claimed elements as specifically claimed. The description of the present disclosure has been presented for purposes of illustration and description, but is not intended to be exhaustive or limited to the disclosure in the form disclosed. Many modifications, variations, and any combinations thereof will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art without departing from the scope and spirit of the disclosure. The implementation(s) were chosen and described in order to best explain the principles of the disclosure and the practical application, and to enable others of ordinary skill in the art to understand the disclosure for various implementation(s) with various modifications and/or any combinations of implementation(s) as are suited to the particular use contemplated.

Having thus described the disclosure of the present application in detail and by reference to implementation(s) thereof, it will be apparent that modifications, variations, and any combinations of implementation(s) (including any modifications, variations, and combinations thereof) are possible without departing from the scope of the disclosure defined in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

**1**. A computer-implemented method comprising:

dynamically determining, by a computing device, a reputation threshold requirement for a first user to participate in a conference session of participating users, wherein the reputation threshold requirement is based upon, at least in part, a reputation profile of the conference session including a current average participant reputation of the participating users for the conference session, wherein the current average participant reputation is based upon at least one parameter of: an average of a number of users connected to the participating users, an average of a number of previous contributions by the participating users, and an average of a number of social actions associated with at least a portion of the number of previous contributions by the participating users;

determining whether a reputation of the first user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the conference session, based upon, at least in part, comparing the reputation of the first user with the reputation profile for the conference session, wherein the reputation of the first user includes a score based upon, at least in part, combined or averaged points achieved by the first user for each of one or more of: a number of users connected to the first user, a number of previous contributions by the first user, and a number of social actions associated with at least a portion of the number of previous contributions by the first user;

enabling access to the conference session if the reputation of the first user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the conference session;

disabling access to the conference session if the reputation of the first user fails to satisfy the reputation threshold requirement for the conference session; and

receiving a selection from a controlling user enabling access to the conference session, wherein the selection indicates whether to enable or disable access by the first user to the conference session.

**2**. A computer-implemented method comprising:

dynamically determining, by a computing device, a reputation threshold requirement for participating in a collaboration session, wherein the reputation threshold requirement is based upon, at least in part, a reputation profile of the collaboration session including a current average participant reputation of participating users for the collaboration session, wherein the current average participant reputation is based upon at least one parameter of: an average of a number of users connected to the participating users, an average of a number of previous contributions by the participating users, and an average of a number of social actions associated with at least a portion of the number of previous contributions by the participating users;

determining whether a reputation of a first user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session, based upon, at least in part, comparing the reputation of the first user with the reputation profile of the collaboration session; and

enabling access of the first user to the collaboration session if the reputation of the first user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session;

disabling access to the collaboration session if the reputation of the first user fails to satisfy the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session; and

receiving a selection from a controlling user enabling access to the collaboration session, wherein the selection indicates whether to enable or disable access by the first user to the collaboration session.

**3**. The computer-implemented method of claim **2** further including enabling access of the first user to the collaboration session if the reputation of the first user fails to satisfy the reputation threshold requirement and if a diversity space is available.

**4**. The computer-implemented method of claim **2** further comprising determining a reputation of an entity that enables the access to the collaboration session.

**5**. The computer-implemented method of claim **2** further comprising determining a reputation of an author of a topic for the collaboration session.

**6**. The computer-implemented method of claim **5** wherein determining the reputation of the author of the topic for the collaboration session includes determining whether a relationship exists between the author of the topic for the collaboration session and an entity that enables the access to the collaboration session.

**7**. The computer-implemented method of claim **6** wherein the relationship includes a connection between the author of the topic for the collaboration session and the entity that enables the access to the collaboration session.

**8**. The computer-implemented method of claim **2** wherein the reputation of a first user is based upon, at least in part, a number of users connected to the first user.

**9**. The computer-implemented method of claim **2** wherein the reputation of the first user is based upon, at least in part, a number of previous contributions by the first user.

**10**. The computer-implemented method of claim **9** wherein the reputation of the first user is based upon, at least in part, a number of social actions associated with at least a portion of the number of previous contributions by the first user.

**11**. The computer-implemented method of claim **2** further comprising causing to be displayed the reputation of the first user.

**12**. A computing system including a processor and a memory configured to perform operations comprising:

dynamically determining a reputation threshold requirement for participating in a collaboration session, wherein the reputation threshold requirement is based upon, at least in part, a reputation profile of the collaboration session including a current average participant reputation of participating users for the collaboration sessions, wherein the current average participant reputation is based upon at least one parameter of: an average of a number of users connected to the participating users, an average of a number of previous contributions by the participating users, and an average of a number of social actions associated with at least a portion of the number of previous contributions by the participating users;

determining whether a reputation of a first user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session, based upon, at least in part, comparing the reputation of the first user with the reputation profile of the collaboration session; and

enabling access to the collaboration session if the reputation of the first user satisfies the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session;

disabling access to the collaboration session if the reputation of the first user fails to satisfy the reputation threshold requirement for the collaboration session; and

receiving a selection from a controlling user enabling access to the collaboration session, wherein the selection indicates whether to enable or disable access by the first user to the collaboration session.

**13**. The computing system of claim **12** further comprising enabling access of the first user to the collaboration session if the reputation of the first user fails to satisfy the reputation threshold requirement and a diversity space is available.

**14**. The computing system of claim **12** further comprising determining a reputation of an entity that enables the access to the collaboration session.

**15**. The computing system of claim **12** further comprising determining a reputation of an author of a topic for the collaboration session.

**16**. The computing system of claim **15** wherein determining the reputation of the author of the topic includes determining whether a relationship exists between the author of the topic and an entity that enables the access to the collaboration session.

**17**. The computing system of claim **16** wherein the relationship includes the author of the topic following the entity or the entity following the author of the topic.

**18**. The computing system of claim **12** wherein the reputation of the first user is based upon, at least in part, a number of users connected to the first user.

**19**. The computing system of claim **12** wherein the reputation of the first user is based upon, at least in part, a number of previous contributions by the first user.

**20**. The computing system of claim **12** further comprising causing to be displayed the reputation of the first user.

* * * * *